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(*b*) if so, the action taken on resolution No. 4 requesting the Government that the grinding of foodstuffs by flour mills should be treated as essential service for purposes of exemption of such mills from electricity cuts?

THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The request was examined when it was reported that during periods when a cut in consumption is enforced, rice mills are treated as seasonal loads and quota for them fixed either on the basis of their average consumption during the months immediately preceding or on the basis of consumption during the corresponding months of the previous years, whichever is advantageous. No further concession was considered necessary. However, subsequently the cut in supply to rice mills was reduced to 50 per cent with effect from 26th May 1956 when the cut in respect of others was 66-2/3 per cent.

Requisition of buildings for Collectors' Conference at Ootacamund

* 52 *Q.*—SRI V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government had requisitioned buildings in Ootacamund in May 1956 to accommodate officers attending the Collectors' Conference;

(*b*) what was the rent paid in all; and

(*c*) whether any building was given free to the Government for the aforesaid purpose, and if so, by whom?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : (*a*) No, Sir.

(*b*) Does not arise.

(*c*) No, Sir.

SRI V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR : Were any private buildings requisitioned or used at all for the residence of the officers attending the Collectors' Conference?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : No, Sir. The Government did not requisition any private buildings for that purpose.

SRI V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR : May I know whether any building had been taken on rent though technically it may not come under the word "requisition"?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : No, Sir.

SRI V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR : May I know whether all the Collectors were accommodated in Government buildings? 9–40 a.m.

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : Some of the Collectors remained in Government buildings. Some Collectors made their own arrangements for their stay.

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SRI S. PANCHAKSHARAM : The general complaint has been that with regard to both officials and non-officials who attended the conferences and committee meetings no arrangements for proper accommodation—although some arrangements were made —had been made. Is it not the duty of the Government to provide suitable accommodation both for officials and non-officials whenever such conferences or committee meetings are held at Ooty?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : I do agree, Sir, that proper accommodation should be made available. But this was the first occasion we held a conference in Ooty and we do not know whether this would be the usual feature for every year. Therefore, we could not provide as convenient an accommodation as we would have liked to provide.

SRI K. KUNHI MOHAMED SHAFEE : Is it not a fact that in fact accommodation was available in Ooty but that the Collector created some scare in the minds of Members who were to attend the committee meetings?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : I do not think, Sir, hon. Members could be scared by any Collector. They got the accommodation all right and they made use of it.

SRI K. P. GOPALAN : May I know whether the Government have given any intimation to the Collector of the Nilgiris, and if so, whether the Collector made necessary arrangements?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : Yes, Sir, he was asked to arrange accommodation for the hon. Members and accommodation was arranged.

SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN : Is the Minister aware of the fact that the so-called arrangement of the Collector was woefully lacking with regard to non-official members and but for the timely intervention of hon. Member Sri K. Rajaram the position would have been that non-official members would have been thrown on the streets of Ooty?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : I do agree the hon. Members also co-operated in making the accommodation more convenient. But the Collector also had taken certain steps, perhaps not as much as we would have liked him to do.

Bogus receipts issued by village headman

* 53 *Q.*—SRI K. ARANGANATHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government are aware of any cases brought to the notice of the Revenue Divisional Officer, Tindivanam, and the Collector of the South Arcot district, in which the village headman issued receipt for the amount received on behalf of the Government as authorized agent of the Government without actually receiving the amount; and

(*b*) if so, the action taken in the matter?